

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed March 18, 2008. The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. Through this response, claims 1, 12, 23, and 37-39 have been amended, and claims 4-6, 15-17 and 26-28 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 6, 17 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 12 and 23 to respectively include the limitations of former claims 6, 17 and 28. In that Applicant believes that every rejection has been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

II. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4-12, 15-23 and 26-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Hann et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,535,520) (hereinafter "*Hann*") in view of *Joshi et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,017) (hereinafter "*Joshi*"). Because claims 4-6, 15-17 and 26-28 have been canceled by this Response, the rejection of each of these claims is moot.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 12 and 23 to respectively include the limitations of former claims 6, 17 and 28, which the Office Action indicated each contained allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are not obvious and request that the rejections of claims 1, 12 and 23 be withdrawn.

In addition, because independent claims 1, 12 and 23 are allowable over *Hann* in view of *Joshi*, dependent claims 7-12, 18-23 and 29-39 are allowable as a matter of law for at least the reason that each of the dependent claims contains all elements of their respective base claim. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Hence, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn as well.

III. Canceled Claims

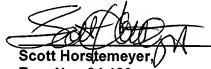
As identified above, claims 4-6, 15-17 and 26-28 have been canceled from the application through this Response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 50-0835.

Respectfully submitted,


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